

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the apparatus includes paddles disposed on a rotating shaft, wherein paddles are spaced progressively closer to one another to separate the sanitizing agent from the goods by compressing the goods.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the apparatus includes a screw of increasing cylinder diameter for separating the sanitizing agent from the conduit through a perforated interior wall of the conduit.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising means for mixing the goods with a neutralizing agent and means for separating the agent from the goods.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising paddles disposed on a rotating shaft, wherein paddles are spaced progressively closer to one another to separate the neutralizing agent from the goods by compressing the goods.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the apparatus includes a screw of increasing cylinder diameter for separating the neutralizing agent from the conduit through a perforated interior wall of the conduit.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising means for mixing the goods with an antioxidant agent and means for separating the antioxidant agent from the goods.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising paddles disposed on a rotating shaft, wherein paddles are spaced progressively closer to one another to separate an antioxidant agent from the goods by compressing the goods.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the apparatus includes a screw of increasing cylinder diameter for separating the antioxidant agent from the conduit through a perforated interior wall of the conduit.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a constriction in the conduit.

21. (Currently amended) A ~~sanitizing vessel comprising~~ apparatus for mixing goods with an agent and separating goods from an agent, the apparatus comprising:

[[means]] a mixing section for mixing ~~[[a good]]~~ goods with ~~a sanitizing agent~~ an agent; and

~~means for mixing a good with a neutralizing agent, wherein both of the means for mixing include a rotating member housed within a conduit wherein the agents are mixed with the goods as the rotating member transfers the goods through the conduit~~ a vertically disposed conduit with an inlet and outlet for goods and an inlet and outlet for an agent, wherein the conduit comprises a first screw conveyor section within the conduit to compress the goods while transferring the goods through the conduit, and a second tapered screw conveyor section above the first screw conveyor section, the inlet for an agent is above the tapered screw conveyor section and the outlet for an agent is below the tapered screw conveyor section.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A ~~sanitizing apparatus for goods,~~ vessel comprising apparatus for separating goods from an agent, the apparatus comprising:

a vertically disposed conduit with an inlet and outlet for ~~perishable~~ goods, and an inlet and outlet for a sanitizing agent, wherein a rotating tapered screw conveyor within the conduit transfers the goods through the conduit ~~and mixes the goods with the sanitizing agent as the~~

goods are transferred through the conduit, the inlet for the agent is above the tapered screw conveyor and the outlet for the agent is below the tapered screw conveyor.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein the rotating screw conveyor causes the removal of the sanitizing agent from the conduit by compressing the goods and directing the sanitizing agent through a perforated interior wall of the conduit.

25. (Currently amended) A sanitizing vessel comprising apparatus for ~~perishable~~ separating goods from carbon dioxide, the apparatus comprising:

a vertically disposed conduit with an inlet and outlet for ~~perishable~~ goods, and an inlet and outlet for ~~a sanitizing agent~~ carbon dioxide, wherein a rotating ~~member~~ tapered screw conveyor section within the conduit transfers the goods through the conduit ~~and mixes the goods with the sanitizing agent as the goods are transferred through the conduit~~, and wherein the ~~rotating member causes the removal of the sanitizing agent from the conduit by compressing the goods and directing the sanitizing agent through a perforated interior wall of the conduit~~ outlet for carbon dioxide is below the tapered screw conveyor section and the inlet for carbon dioxide is above the tapered screw conveyor section.

26. (New) A vessel comprising apparatus for separating fluids from solids, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a first vertically disposed screw conveyor section within an enclosed conduit, wherein the first screw conveyor section has an inlet in communication with the vessel and an outlet to a second screw conveyor section inlet;

(b) a second vertically disposed tapered screw conveyor section above the first screw conveyor section within an enclosed conduit having an outlet for solids, an outlet for fluids below the second screw conveyor section, and an inlet for solids and fluids in communication with the outlet from the first screw conveyor section; and

(c) an inlet for a fluid above the second screw conveyor section in communication with the second screw conveyor section solids outlet.

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